

**Applicant Name** Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
**Project Name** Geothermal Assessment and Outreach Partnership

### **Project Abstract**

Montana has abundant geothermal resources that could provide heat, food, and electricity for the citizens of Montana. Montana's use of these resources has lagged behind other western states. Although a few spa resorts and greenhouses have tapped some of Montana's geothermal resources over the past century, the vast majority of the energy available from geothermal sources lies undeveloped.

In particular, some of the highest temperatures measured in Montana are in deep oil and gas wells. There is potential to use heat from both producing and non-producing wells for direct uses, or for electricity generation for use near the well sites. While temperature and water chemistry information exists for many of Montana's hot springs and wells, there has been little investigation into the development potential in oil and gas fields.

The DEQ, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG), and National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), which represent the Montana Geothermal Working Group, propose to investigate up to 15 known geothermal sites in Montana for potential development. The MBMG will conduct the data collection and technical evaluation. The NCAT will conduct additional site evaluation and produce a regulatory guide, a geothermal development guide, case studies, and consumer outreach materials. The DEQ and NCAT will coordinate and maintain geothermal websites, and work with owners and managers of geothermal resources to develop new projects using the earth's heat.

Today it is more important than ever to use the renewable resources available in our state, and to use them wisely and to their best advantage. Millions of British Thermal Units (BTUs) of heat are available for cost-effective uses and this project will help Montanans capture that resource.